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SUBJECT Soviet Troops in Timisoara

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. In the fall of 1953 a Soviet motorized division command was observed in the Moldovei barracks, formerly the cavalry barracks.
2. In the same barracks was a Soviet motorized rifle regiment, its strength being 1,200 to 1,300 men. Officers and men wear red and black shoulder boards without special insignia. The men belong to the young, active classes. The unit arrived in the fall of 1952, but some of its men did not come until Jan 1953.
3. The men go out for exercises daily in units of company strength. It was observed that each squad had four machine-pistols and each platoon a light machine gun. Heavy machine gun formations left the barracks in platoon strength, each having three Maxim heavy machine guns, carried by trucks.
4. Each battalion has a machine gun platoon.
5. A mortar platoon is 35 to 40 men strong. Six men make up a squad, and each squad has a 50 mm mortar, carried on the back. Exercises are held in platoon strength.
6. The heavy mortar company has twelve 120 mm mortars, towed by trucks on small carts.
7. The auto park at the barracks consists of two radio trucks, eight motorcycles, six passenger cars and 37 trucks.
8. At the infantry barracks on Calea Bogdanistelor is an armored reconnaissance battalion of 550-600 men. They wear black and red shoulder boards. They are armed with light and heavy machine guns, 76.2 mm AA guns, AA machine guns, and 57 mm AT guns. The number was not ascertained. The battalion has 24 armored cars.

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part of which are half-tracks. The auto park consists of nine passenger cars, 26 trucks, and 22 cross-country vehicles.
Russian.

9. There are fewer Soviet troops in Timisoara than in previous years. The higher commands remain, but many of the troops withdrawn in the spring of 1953 had not returned by Nov. 53.
10. Maneuvers were held in smaller units than in 1952. There were no special troop movements in the border zone.

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